



Oxford Read and Discover

Animals At Night

Rachel Bladon

Read and discover all about amazing animals
at night ...

- Why do some animals come out at night?
- What special senses do nocturnal animals have?

Read and discover more about the world!
This series of non-fiction readers provides
interesting and educational content, with
activities and project work.

Series Editor: Hazel Geatches

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Word count for this reader: 1,746



Level 3
600 headwords



Level 5
900 headwords



Level 4
750 headwords



Level 6
1,050 headwords

Cover photograph: Photolibary (Tarsier/Michael Dick/Animals Animals)

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

www.oup.com/elt



ISBN 978-0-19-464446-4



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OXFORD

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Great Clarendon Street, Oxford OX2 6DP

Oxford University Press is a department of the University of Oxford. It furthers the University's objective of excellence in research, scholarship, and education by publishing worldwide in

Oxford New York

Auckland Cape Town Dar es Salaam Hong Kong Karachi
Kuala Lumpur Madrid Melbourne Mexico City Nairobi
New Delhi Shanghai Taipei Toronto

With offices in

Argentina Austria Brazil Chile Czech Republic France
Greece Guatemala Hungary Italy Japan Poland Portugal
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First published 2011

2015 2014 2013 2012 2011

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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ISBN: 978 0 19 464446 4

An Audio CD Pack containing this book and a CD is also available, ISBN 978 0 19 464486 0

The CD has a choice of American and British English recordings of the complete text.

An accompanying Activity Book is also available, ISBN 978 0 19 464456 3

Printed in China

This book is printed on paper from certified and well-managed sources.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Illustrations by: Kelly Kennedy pp.4, 13, 17, 19, 21; Dusan Pavlic/Beehive Illustration pp.32, 34, 36, 42, 46, 47; Alan Rowe pp.32, 36, 46, 47;

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With thanks to Ann Fullick for science checking



Introduction

At night, when you go to bed, thousands of animals are moving around outside in the dark. Many of them do not sleep all night!

Do you know any animals that come out at night?

How do animals see in the dark?
What animals can you see here?



Now read and discover more
about amazing animals at night!



An Opossum

When the sun goes down, it gets dark and the air gets a lot colder. For many people, it's time to go to sleep, but a lot of animals only come out at night. They are called nocturnal animals.

The opossum is a nocturnal animal. At night, it looks for plants and small animals to eat. In the day, it hides and goes to sleep.



The armadillo is a nocturnal animal, and it sleeps for more than 17 hours in the day!



Nocturnal animals aren't the only animals that come out at night. Some animals, like the tiger, come out in the day and at night. Other animals, like the rabbit, only come out in the morning when it's getting light, and in the evening when it's getting dark.

Some animals come out at night because there are not so many predators – animals that want to hunt and eat them. Some animals find more food because they eat other animals that come out at night. In very hot places, it's sometimes too hot to come out in the day.

2

Special Senses

Many animals that come out at night have special senses. This means that they can see, hear, touch, smell, or taste very well. These special senses help them to find food and to stay safe in the dark.

Wild dogs, like foxes, usually hunt in the dark. They have a big nose, and an amazing sense of smell that helps them to find food. A fox can smell mice through up to 12 centimeters of snow! Foxes also have very big ears that they can move, so they can hear very well all around them.

A Fox Smelling for Food



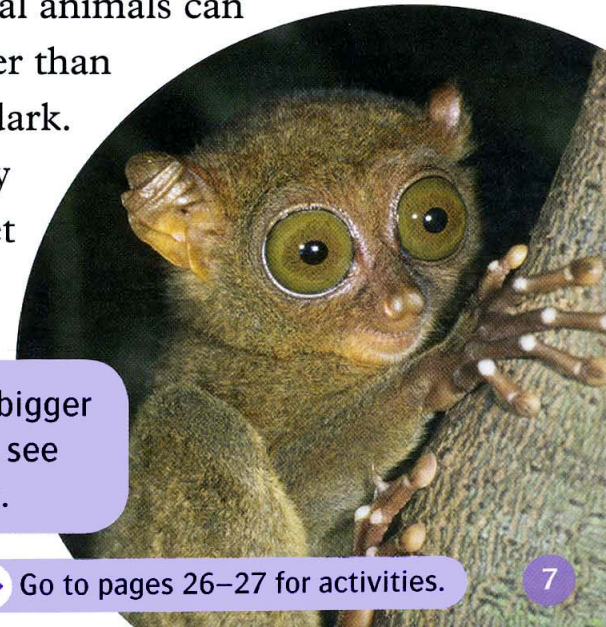
Raccoons

Raccoons are nocturnal animals that have long fingers and a very good sense of touch. When they are hunting for food in water, they use their fingers to find fish and frogs.

Many nocturnal animals can see much better than people in the dark. They have very big eyes that let in lots of light.



A tarsier's eye is bigger than its brain! It can see very well in the dark.



3

Flying at Night



An Owl Catching Its Prey

In the day, owls stay in trees or buildings, but at night they hunt for food. Owls can see very well in the dark, and they also have an amazing sense of hearing. They listen for little noises from their prey – rabbits, mice, and other small animals that they like to eat. Then they fly down and catch them in their sharp claws.

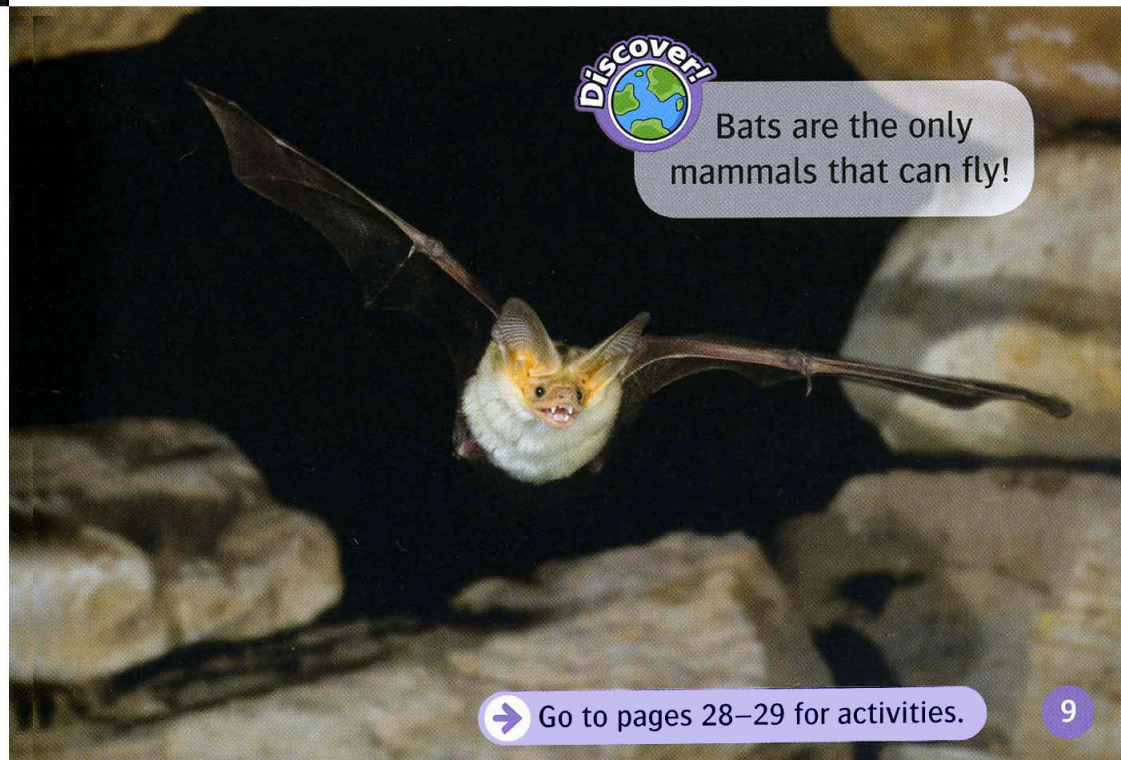
Many owls have soft feathers on their wings, so they can fly very quietly. Their prey don't know that they are coming!

Most types of bat are nocturnal. At night they look for fruit and flowers, or they hunt for insects, fish, and mice. Bats can see and smell very well, and many bats have a special sense called echolocation. This helps them to find food in the dark. Bats make special noises when they fly. The noises bounce off things and come back as echoes. These echoes tell bats where things are and how big they are.

In the day, bats hang upside down and stay in caves, trees, and buildings.



Bats are the only mammals that can fly!



➔ Go to pages 28–29 for activities.

4

Ocean Animals

Some fish live near the top of the ocean in the day and then they swim down to the deep ocean at night. Other fish swim up to the top of the ocean at night, and they look for plankton – very small animals that swim up to the top of the ocean every evening to find food.

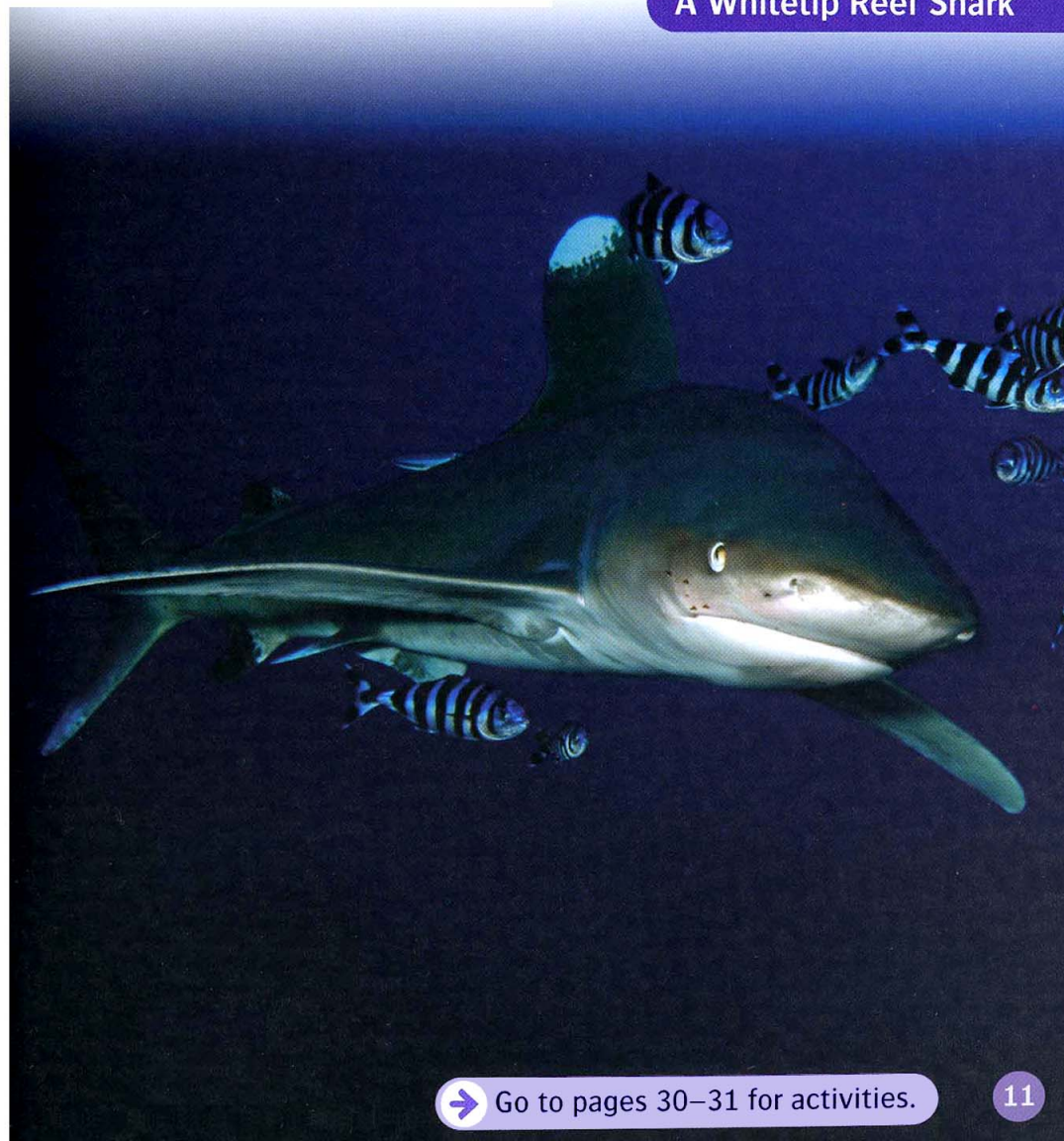
Plankton are food for fish like the lantern fish. The lantern fish stays down in the deep ocean in the day, but when the sun goes down it swims to the top of the ocean. It feeds near the top of the ocean at night, and then swims back down before morning.



The lantern fish has lights on its body when it swims.

The whitetip reef shark also comes out at night. It stays in caves down in the deep ocean in the day, and doesn't move very much. Then at night, it comes out to hunt for fish and octopuses.

A Whitetip Reef Shark



→ Go to pages 30–31 for activities.

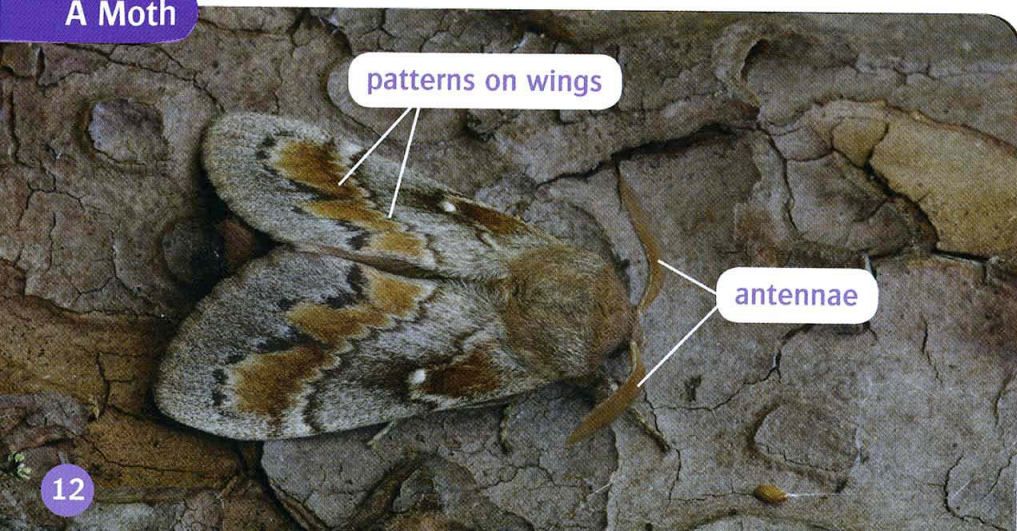
5

Minibeasts

Many minibeasts, like moths and spiders, come out at night. Minibeasts come out at night because there are not so many predators that hunt and eat them. Slugs and snails look for food at night because the sun can dry them out in the day.

Moths are insects. They have a body that's good for living at night. They have special antennae on their head. These help them to look for food and to find their way in the dark. Moths also have patterns on their wings that help them to hide in trees in the day.

A Moth



patterns on wings

antennae

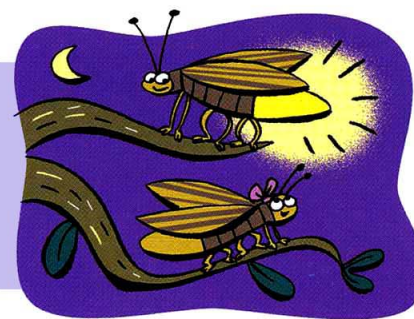


A Tarantula Eating Its Prey

Tarantulas are spiders. They hunt for their prey at night. Special hairs on their body help them to feel when another animal is near. They hide, and then they jump on their prey, and put poison in its body.



Nocturnal fireflies make lights in their body that turn on and off at night. They use these lights to communicate.



6

Desert Animals

In many deserts, it's very hot in the day, so many animals only come out at night. The fennec fox lives in the Sahara Desert in Africa. It stays in a burrow in the sand in the day, and at night it hunts for mice, lizards, and insects. It's the smallest fox in the world, but it has very big ears, so it can easily hear its prey in the dark.

A Fennec Fox



Kangaroo rats don't need to drink! They get water from the seeds that they eat.



Kangaroo rats live in deserts in North America. At night, they jump around and find seeds. They keep seeds in their mouth, and then they put them in their burrow.

Desert scorpions stay out of the sun in the day. At night, they come out to feed on minibeasts. Scorpions can't see well, but they have special hairs on their legs so that they can feel when prey is near. They kill their prey with a sting from their tail.



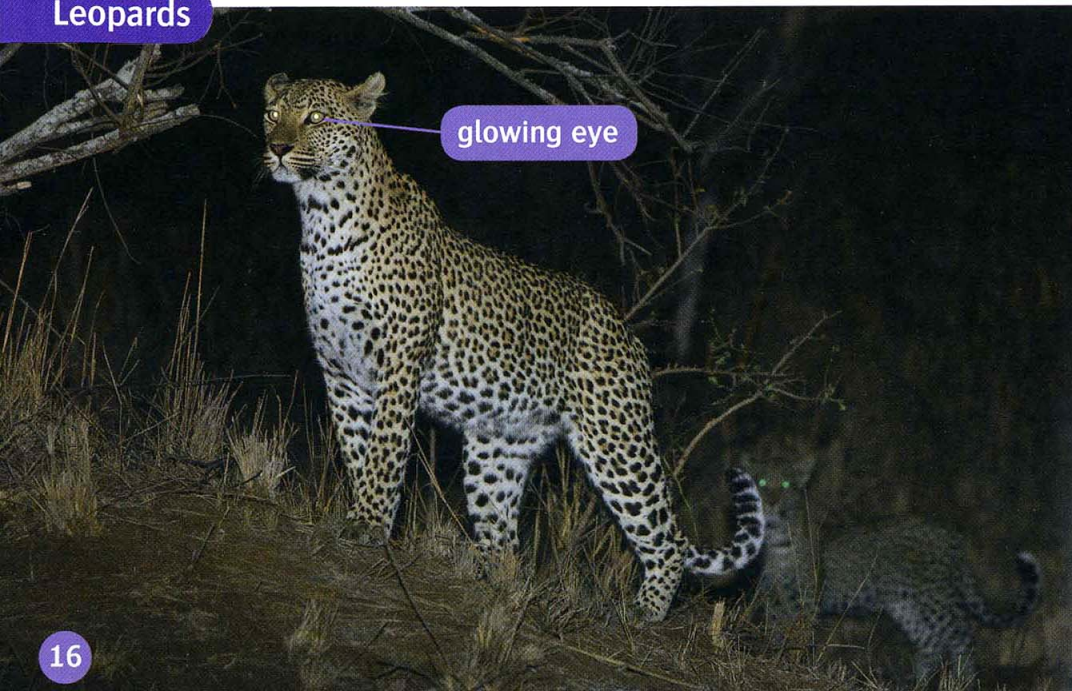
A Scorpion

African Animals

There are many nocturnal animals in Africa. Many big cats, like leopards, hunt for food at night. It's usually easier to catch prey when it's dark, and when it's cooler, too.

Big cats see very well, and they have a very good sense of hearing and smell, so they are good night hunters. Their eyes have a special part called the tapetum. The tapetum reflects light so that the cats can see in the dark. It can make their eyes glow.

Leopards



glowing eye

Aardvarks can't see very well, but they have a big nose and big ears that they use to find ant nests at night. They dig up the nests and catch the ants on their sticky tongue.

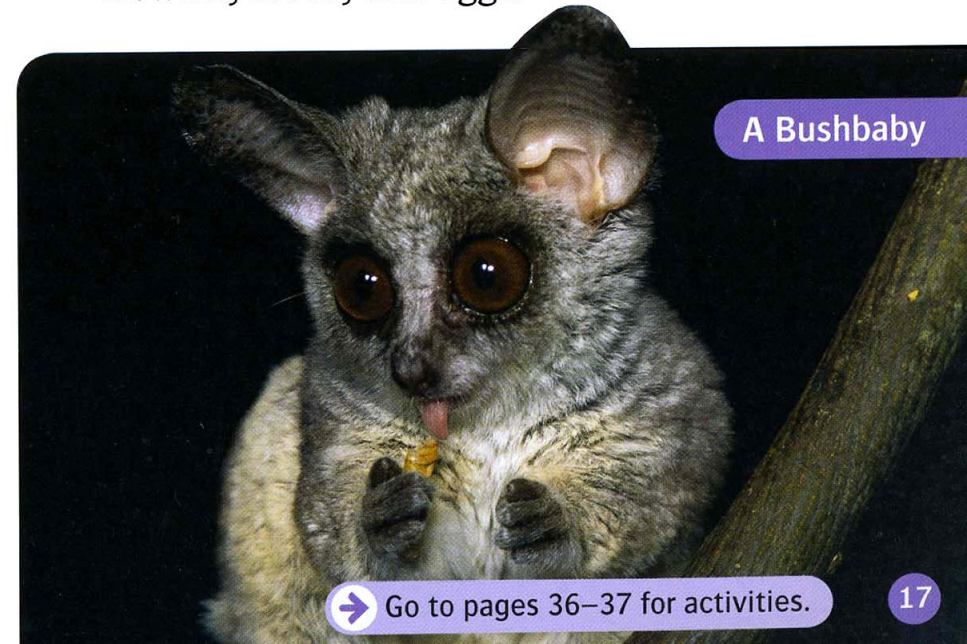


An aardvark can eat 50,000 insects in one night!



Hippos come out at night to eat grass. In the day, they stay in water because their skin needs to be wet and cool.

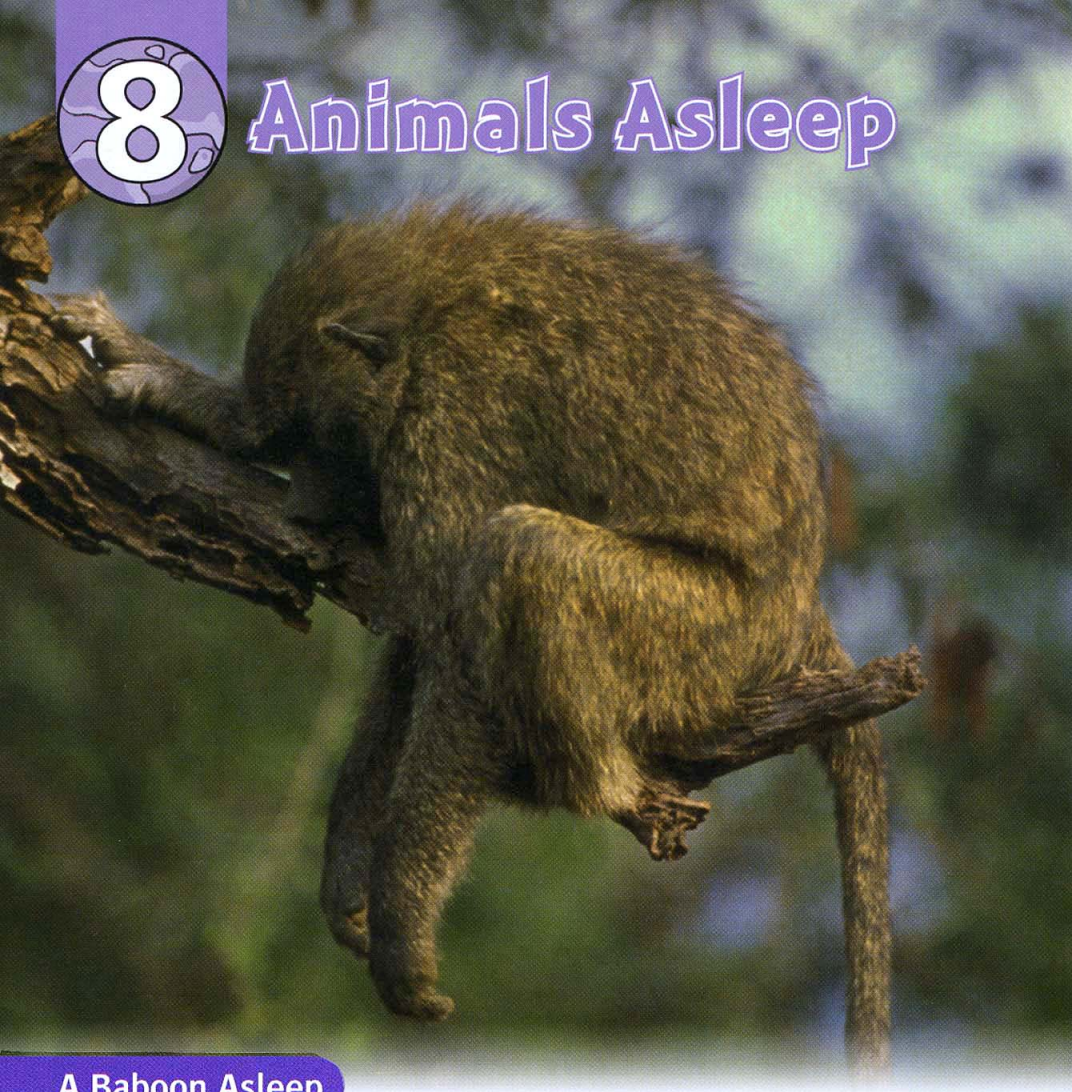
Bushbabies hunt for food at night. They use their big eyes to look in trees for insects, flowers, seeds, and eggs.



A Bushbaby

8

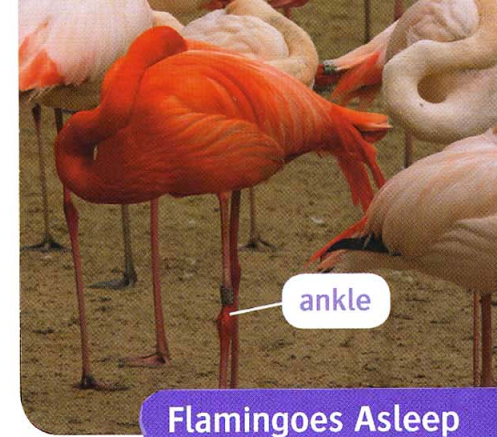
Animals Asleep



A Baboon Asleep

At night, when many animals are looking for food, others are asleep, just like you! In the evening, baboons climb up cliffs or into the tops of trees, and they sleep for about ten hours every night. In these high places, they know that they are safe from predators.

Flamingoes sleep at night, standing on one leg! They have special ankles that keep their legs straight so that they don't fall down.

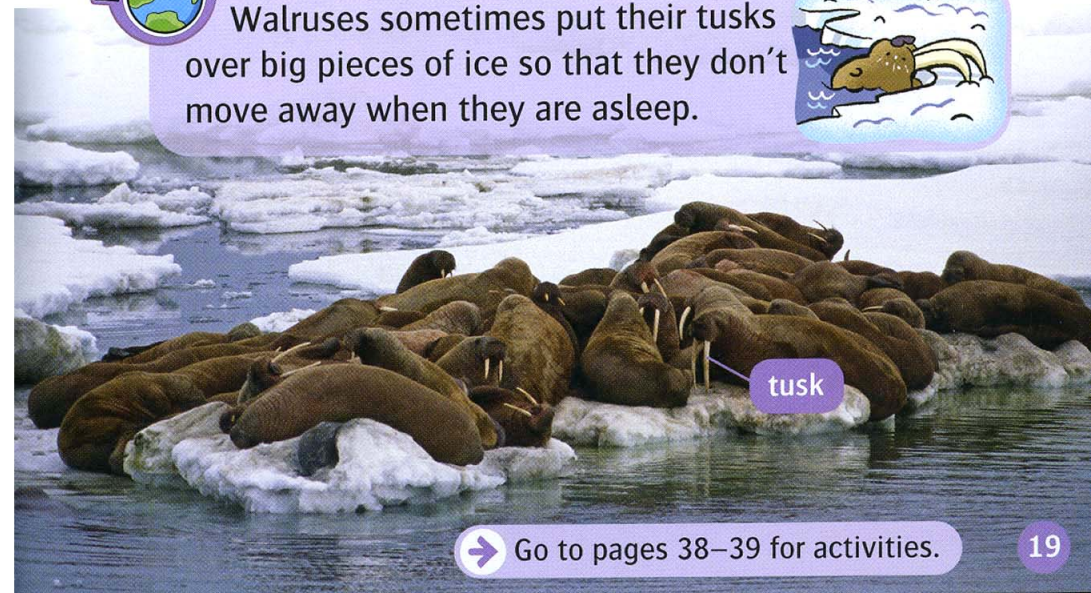


Flamingoes Asleep

Walrus live in the Arctic. It's light all night in the summer there. Walrus sleep on land, on ice, or in water. They can sleep for up to 19 hours. Walrus have special pouches on their body. When they sleep in water, they put lots of air in the pouches, to keep their head above the water.



Walrus sometimes put their tusks over big pieces of ice so that they don't move away when they are asleep.



tusk

➔ Go to pages 38–39 for activities.

9

Noises at Night

It's hard to see at night, so animals often use noises to communicate. Owls call to each other, and lions roar if predators come near their babies. When deer are in danger, they try to communicate with other deer. They make noises in their nose, and they hit the ground with their feet.

Most birds do not sing at night, but the male nightingale sings a beautiful song when it's looking for a female. Some insects make a lot of noise at night, too. The grasshopper makes noises with its wings and legs.

A Male Nightingale



A Tasmanian Devil

The Tasmanian devil is a small animal that comes out to hunt for food in the dark. When it's scared or it thinks that another animal is going to take its food, it makes terrible noises.



When howler monkeys call to each other at night, you can hear them from about 5 kilometers away!



Every year, many types of birds migrate – they move from one place to another to live. These birds usually only come out in the day, but when they migrate, they travel at night. This is because they are safer from predators, and they can fly for longer because it's cooler. Also, they feed in the day, and then they have lots of energy to fly at night when they are full of food.

Birds Migrating



A Green Turtle Moving up a Beach

Green turtles are not usually nocturnal, but they travel at night when they are ready to lay their eggs. They swim to a beach and come out of the ocean. They wait until night when it's cooler. Then they move up the beach and lay their eggs in the sand.

When the baby turtles come out of the eggs, they dig their way out of the sand and they go to the ocean. The baby turtles do this at night when it's cooler, and when there are not so many predators.

There's a lot happening at night! All around the world, millions of animals are moving around, hunting for food, and traveling from one place to another.

1 Life at Night

← Read pages 4–5.

1 Complete the chart.

dark hotter nocturnal animals don't sleep
colder nocturnal animals sleep light

In the Day	At Night
	dark

2 Match. Then write complete sentences.

armadillos
tigers
rabbits
opossums

at night
in the morning and
in the evening
at night
in the day and at night

- 1 Armadillos come out at night.
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____

3 Write *true* or *false*.

- 1 The armadillo sleeps for less than 6 hours in the day. false
- 2 The tiger only comes out at night. _____
- 3 The rabbit is a nocturnal animal. _____
- 4 Some animals are nocturnal because there are not so many predators at night. _____

4 Complete the sentences.

predator nocturnal evening hides

- 1 The opossum hides and goes to sleep in the day.
- 2 The opossum and the armadillo are _____ animals.
- 3 The rabbit usually comes out in the morning and in the _____.
- 4 A _____ is an animal that wants to hunt and eat another animal.

5 Circle the correct words.

Many animals are nocturnal because ...

- 1 at night there are more / not so many predators.
- 2 at night there's more / less food.
- 3 in the day, sometimes it's too cold / hot.

2 Special Senses

← Read pages 6–7.

1 Match. Then write complete sentences.

raccoons
foxes
tarsiers
foxes

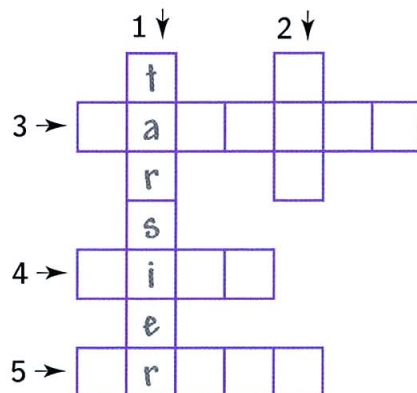
big ears
big eyes
big noses
long fingers

hearing
smell
touch
sight

- 1 Raccoons have long fingers and a good sense of touch.
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____

2 Complete the puzzle.

- 1 a nocturnal animal with very big eyes
- 2 a nocturnal animal that has an amazing sense of smell and a very good sense of hearing
- 3 a nocturnal animal that sometimes hunts for food in water
- 4 foxes like to eat them
- 5 animals that raccoons like to eat



3 Circle the correct words.

- 1 The five main senses are seeing, hearing, touch, smell, and taste / **eating**.
- 2 A fox can smell mice through up to **12** / 21 centimeters of snow.
- 3 **Tarsiers** / Raccoons like to eat fish and frogs.
- 4 Many nocturnal animals have very **small** / big eyes.
- 5 Their big eyes let in lots of **light** / air.
- 6 A tarsier's eye is bigger than its **head** / brain.

4 Order the words.

- 1 special / nocturnal / senses. / have / animals / Many
Many nocturnal animals have special senses.
- 2 dark. / usually / the / hunt / Wild / in / dogs

- 3 food. / their / fingers / use / to / Raccoons / find

- 4 better / people. / see / animals / can / Nocturnal / than

- 5 well / in / see / Tarsiers / can / dark. / the

3 Flying at Night

← Read pages 8–9.

1 Complete the chart.

	Owls	Bats
Food:	rabbits, mice, and other small animals	
Where they stay in the day:		
Special senses:		
Another amazing fact:		

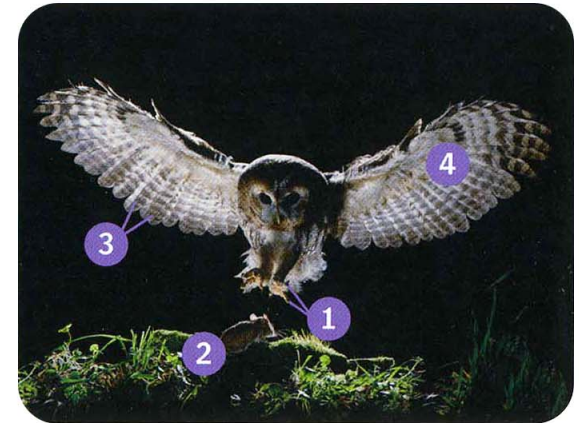
2 Write owl or bat.

- It's a mammal. bat
- It's a bird. _____
- It can fly very quietly because it has soft feathers on its wings. _____
- It has a special sense called echolocation. _____
- It hangs upside down in the day. _____

3 Write the words.

sharp claws soft feathers wing prey

- sharp claws
- _____
- _____
- _____



4 Answer the questions.

- What do owls listen for when they are hunting?

They listen for little noises from their prey.

- How do they catch their prey?

- Why can owls fly very quietly?

- What special sense helps bats to find food?

- What do echoes tell bats?

← Read pages 10–11.

1 Match. Then write sentences.

Plankton are
Lantern fish are
Whitetip reef
sharks are

fish that stay in caves
in the day.
small animals that
are food for fish.
fish that have lights on
their body when they swim.

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____

2 Correct the sentences.

- 1 Plankton are very big animals.
Plankton are very small animals.
- 2 They swim down to the deep ocean at night.

- 3 Lantern fish stay at the top of the ocean in the day.

- 4 In the day, the whitetip reef shark feeds in caves.

3 Complete the sentences.

evening lights day night

- 1 The whitetip reef shark comes out at _____.
- 2 Plankton swim up to the top of the ocean every _____.
- 3 The lantern fish stays down in the deep ocean in the _____.
- 4 The lantern fish has _____ on its body when it swims.

4 Answer the questions.

- 1 What do whitetip reef sharks eat?

- 2 Why do many fish swim up to the top of the ocean at night?

- 3 What do lantern fish eat?

- 4 Where do lantern fish feed at night?

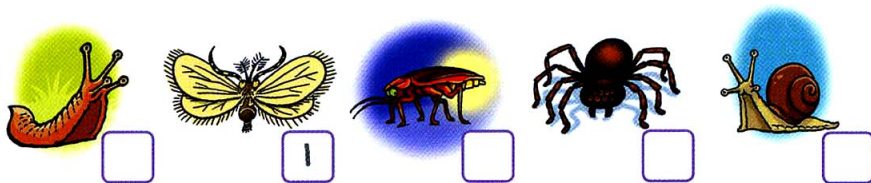
- 5 What does the whitetip reef shark do at night?

5 Minibeasts

← Read pages 12–13.

1 Write the minibeasts. Then write the numbers.

- | | | | |
|----------|-------------|---------------------|-------|
| 1 tomh | <u>moth</u> | 4 lasi ⁿ | _____ |
| 2 driPse | _____ | 5 reffily | _____ |
| 3 glus | _____ | | |



2 Complete the sentences.

patterns lights antennae poison sun hairs

- Slugs and snails hunt for food at night so that they do not dry out in the _____.
- Moths have special _____ that help them to find their way in the dark.
- Moths have _____ on their wings that help them to hide.
- Tarantulas have special _____ on their body.
- Tarantulas put _____ into the body of their prey to kill it.
- Fireflies make _____ in their body.

3 Write about moths and tarantulas.

Three things that I read about moths on page 12:

- _____
- _____
- _____

Another thing that I know about moths:

Three things that I read about tarantulas on page 13:

- _____
- _____
- _____

Another thing that I know about tarantulas:

4 Answer the questions.

1 Why do many minibeasts come out at night?

2 What do moths' antennae do?

3 What helps moths to hide in trees in the day?

4 When do tarantulas hunt for their prey?

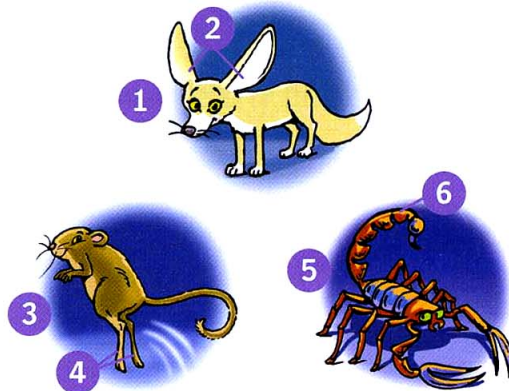
6 Desert Animals

← Read pages 14–15.

tail fennec fox legs
kangaroo rat scorpion ears

1 Write the words.

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____



2 Write true or false.

- 1 In the desert, many animals only come out in the day because it's too cold at night. _____
- 2 The fennec fox lives in the Sahara Desert in Africa. _____
- 3 Kangaroo rats find seeds and they keep them in their mouth. _____
- 4 Scorpions feed on minibeasts. _____
- 5 Scorpions can see very well. _____
- 6 In the desert, scorpions stay out of the sun in the day. _____

3 Answer the questions.

- 1 Where does the fennec fox stay in the day?

- 2 What does the fennec fox hunt for at night?

- 3 What do kangaroo rats do with the seeds that they find?

- 4 How do scorpions kill their prey?

4 Complete the sentences. Then match.

see seeds ears water hairs smallest

- 1 It eats _____.
- 2 It has special _____ on its legs.
- 3 It's the _____ fox in the world.
- 4 It has very big _____.
- 5 It gets _____ from seeds.
- 6 It can't _____ well.

fennec fox
kangaroo rat
scorpion
fennec fox
kangaroo rat
scorpion

7

African Animals

← Read pages 16–17.

1 Write the words.

leopard aardvark hippo bushbaby



1 _____



2 _____



3 _____



4 _____

2 Find and write the words from pages 16–17.

1 two big things that aardvarks have

_____ ears _____

2 three very good senses that big cats have

3 four things that bushbabies eat

3 Complete the sentences.

tongue trees grass tapetum insects cooler

1 Big cats hunt for food at night because it's

_____.

2 An aardvark can eat 50,000 _____ in one night.

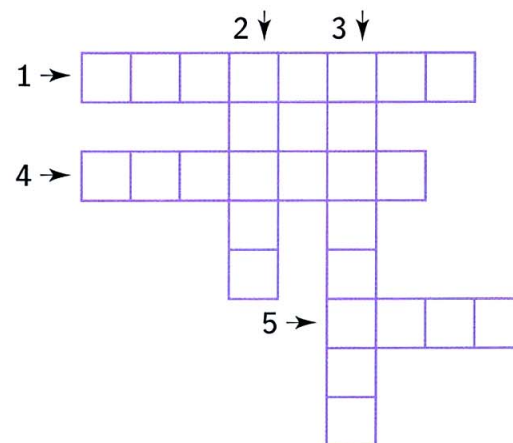
3 Hippos come out at night to eat _____.

4 Bushbabies hunt for food in _____.

5 Aardvarks have a sticky _____.

6 Cats can see in the dark because their eyes have a special part called the _____.

4 Complete the puzzle.



1 an animal with big eyes that looks for food in trees

2 an animal that lives in water in the day and comes out at night

3 an animal with big ears and a big nose that hunts for insects at night

4 a big cat that hunts at night

5 an aardvark's favorite food

8 Animals Asleep

← Read pages 18–19.

1 Match. Then write complete sentences.

How does it sleep?

baboon
flamingo
walrus

on cliffs or in the tops of trees
with its tusks over pieces of ice
standing on one leg

- 1 A baboon sleeps on cliffs or in the tops of trees.
- 2 _____
- 3 _____

2 Circle the correct words.

- 1 Baboons sleep for about **two** / **ten** hours every night.
- 2 Flamingoes have special **tusks** / **ankles** that keep their legs straight.
- 3 Walruses can sleep for up to **nine** / **nineteen** hours.
- 4 Walruses put **water** / **air** in their pouches.
- 5 Walruses put their **tusks** / **legs** over big pieces of ice.

3 Answer the questions.

- 1 Why do baboons sleep in high places?

- 2 How do flamingoes sleep at night?

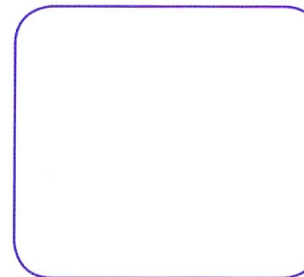
- 3 What do flamingoes have that keep their legs straight?

- 4 Where do walruses sleep?

- 5 How do walruses keep their head above water when they sleep?

- 6 Why don't walruses move away when they sleep in water?

4 Draw an animal asleep and write about how it sleeps.



This animal is called

9 Noises at Night

← Read pages 20–21.

1 Find and write the animals.

1 owl

2 l

3 d

4 n

5 g

6 Tasmanian

7

monkey

a	r	l	i	o	n	h	o	t	i	v
y	o	k	i	o	i	j	n	a	w	g
u	o	p	b	h	g	t	i	h	d	i
g	r	a	s	s	h	o	p	p	e	r
s	c	o	i	t	t	u	i	o	e	r
h	i	d	e	v	i	l	e	e	r	p
t	i	o	h	r	n	u	m	s	r	o
y	i	w	a	r	g	s	i	t	r	i
b	n	e	s	i	a	o	i	p	e	r
p	u	o	owl	y	s	v	u	n		
s	h	o	w	l	e	r	b	u	n	s

2 Order the words.

1 other / Owls / each / call / night. / at / to

2 do / Most / at / not / night. / sing / birds

3 a / The / sings / male / female. / nightingale / for

4 noises. / Tasmanian / makes / devil / The / terrible

3 Correct the sentences.

1 A deer hits the ground with its nose when it's in danger.

2 A grasshopper makes noises with its wings and mouth.

3 A Tasmanian devil is a big animal that hunts for food in the dark.

4 You can hear howler monkeys from about 10 kilometers away.

4 Match. Then write complete sentences.

deer
nightingales
Tasmanian
devils

sing
make noises
in their nose
make terrible
noises

looking for
a female
in danger
scared

1 Deer make noises in their nose when they are in danger.

2

3

10 Traveling at Night

← Read pages 22–23.

1 Write *true* or *false*.

- 1 Many birds that usually come out in the day migrate at night. _____
- 2 Migrating is when animals move from one place to another to live. _____
- 3 Green turtles usually lay their eggs in the day. _____
- 4 Baby turtles go to the ocean after they come out of the eggs. _____

2 Complete the sentences. Then write the numbers.

eggs ocean beach baby

- 1 The green turtle moves up the beach.
- 2 It lays its _____ in the sand.
- 3 The _____ turtles dig their way out of the sand.
- 4 They go to the _____.


☐

☐

☐

☐

3 Answer the questions.

- 1 Why do birds migrate at night?

- 2 Are green turtles nocturnal?

- 3 Where do green turtles lay their eggs?

- 4 Why do baby turtles move down to the ocean at night?

4 Find and write the animals in the chart.

scorpion roardvark howl bu fennec fox
ui green turtle u h hippo to bat u plankton

Desert Animals	<u>scorpion</u>	_____
Ocean Animals	_____	_____
African Animals	_____	_____
Animals That Fly at Night	_____	_____

Project 1

Nocturnal Animals

1 Complete the chart for this nocturnal animal.

Name:	fennec fox
What it looks like:	
Where it lives:	
What it does in the day:	
What it does at night:	
Interesting fact:	

2 Choose another nocturnal animal. Complete the chart.

Name:	
What it looks like:	
Where it lives:	
What it does in the day:	
What it does at night:	
Interesting fact:	

3 Make a poster. Write sentences about the nocturnal animal and add pictures. Display your poster.

Project 2

A Walk at Night

1 Go for a short walk at night with an adult, or look outside your home at night.

2 Write notes about what you saw and heard.

Time	Animals that I saw:	Animal noises that I heard:	What the animals were doing:

3 Write sentences about your walk at night.

Picture Dictionary



brain



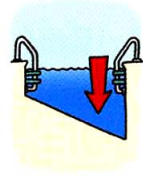
burrow



cliff



danger



deep



male



mammals



mice



million



noise



deer



dig



fall



female



food



ocean



poison



pouches



quiet



reflect



fruit



grass



grasshopper



ground



hang
upside down



seeds



skin



slug



smell



snail



hide



hunt



insects



kill



lay eggs



spider



sting



tail



taste



top



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Animals At Night

Rachel Bladon

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